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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

September 24, 2012

**MEMORANDUM**

To: State Board of Education

From: Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman

Subject: Approval of Criteria for a Competitive Grant for the Support to the *Early On*®  
Field Under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) provides assistance to states in the development and implementation of a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated, multidisciplinary, interagency system of early intervention services to infants and toddlers with disabilities or developmental delays, and their families.

Per federal statute, a statewide public awareness initiative is essential to child find, a system of information and referral for *Early On*. A statewide comprehensive system of personnel development is also essential to an infant and toddler early intervention system. This grant emphasizes early identification of infants and toddlers with disabilities through statewide publication and dissemination of information directed to all primary referral sources, including parents. It is also designed to provide technical assistance and training to improve the delivery of early intervention services.

With the approval of the Michigan FY 2013-2014 federal application, up to \$996,000 annually will be designated for the Support to the *Early On* Field under Part C of IDEA Grant based on negotiated work plans.

Eligible applicants include local and intermediate school districts, human service agencies, private non-profit organizations and agencies, advocacy organizations, institutions of higher learning, and others with appropriate expertise and experience.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the criteria for a Competitive Grant for the Support to the *Early On* Field Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) as presented in the Superintendent's memorandum of September 24, 2012.

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Criteria for a Competitive Grant for the Support to the *Early On*<sup>®</sup> Field Under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

The State Board of Education has adopted as its goal "Continue developing an effective and equitable performance-based system that achieves academic growth and successful outcomes for all students."

To the extent possible, all grant criteria and grant awards will serve to further attain the above goal.

**PRIORITIES, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS THAT THESE CRITERIA SUPPORT**

The Support to the *Early On* Field Grant supports the Board's expectation of successful outcomes for all students by providing the early intervention support needed to achieve improved outcomes for children and families, and also addresses the Board's goal by providing timely and accurate information for intervention services to support children's development. All activities of the *Early On* system address the tenets of universal education and promote early childhood literacy and school/community relationships.

**BACKGROUND/PURPOSE OF GRANT**

☒ Competitive    ☐ Formula    ☒ New\*    ☐ Continuation

\*The Support to the *Early On* Field grant combines two previous Part C of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) competitive grants (Child Find, Public Awareness, and Information and Referral, and Comprehensive System of Professional Development) approved by the board on February 8, 2011. This grant includes minor language changes based on current regulations.

Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the infant and toddler early intervention services system, provides assistance to states for the development and implementation of a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated, multidisciplinary, interagency system of early intervention services for children from birth to three years of age with disabilities or developmental delays, and their families.

The child find, public awareness, information, and referral component provides support to intermediate school districts for services for infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities eligible for support under IDEA. This component emphasizes early identification of all children with disabilities through statewide publications and dissemination of information directed to all primary referral sources, including parents. Information will be made available in multiple languages.

A statewide comprehensive system for personnel development is essential to an infant and toddler early intervention system. The personnel development component is designed to provide technical assistance and training to improve the delivery of early intervention services. This is a federally required component under Part C of IDEA.

## **CRITERIA**

Date criteria were last approved N/A

☒ Defined in Statute      ☐ Defined in Department's Approved Grant Application to the Funder      ☐ Proposed by Staff

The main criteria upon which subgrantees will be selected are the following:

- Implement a public awareness campaign for *Early On* Michigan;
- Promote and manage the components of a child find system;
- Update and maintain a central directory of IDEA resources in Michigan;
- Coordinate, implement, and manage in-service training for professionals, open as well to parents, as part of the statewide *Early On* comprehensive system of personnel development;
- Coordinate and provide technical assistance to the 56 service areas;
- Promote the preparation of early intervention service providers; and
- Train personnel to use innovative activities and strategies by maintaining a communication network with state and national early intervention information centers, organizations, and associations.

## **ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS/TARGET POPULATION TO BE SERVED BY GRANT**

Eligible applicants include local and intermediate school districts, human service agencies, private non-profit organizations and agencies, advocacy organizations, institutions of higher learning, and others with appropriate expertise and experience.

## **TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE**

Up to \$996,000 annually is available for the grant. This is a five year project with annual renewal contingent upon performance and availability of funds.

## **STATUTE**

Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), specifically 20 U.S.C. 1435. Regulatory guidance is found within 34 CFR 303, subpart B.

## **OFFICE ADMINISTERING GRANT/PROGRAM CONTACT**

Office of Great Start/Early Childhood Education and Family Services

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